

Upheaval In Latin America

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ARMS AND POLITICS IN
LATIN AMERICA. By Ed-
win L. Liewen. (Praeger,
\$4.75.) ~~XX-CIA~~

This is a serious study for serious people. It is divided into two parts, one to review the history of Latin America's armed forces, and the other to discuss military aspects of United States policy for the neighboring countries to the south.

Professor Liewen engaged in extensive research to compile the record of militarists in Western Hemisphere politics since Spanish authority over Latin America collapsed early in the 19th century. He points out that the armed forces have permeated national life and dominated politics in all but a few countries.

Policy Needs Change

But the vast area is undergoing a great social, economic and political upheaval. In the revolution, military leaders are steadily losing ground to civilian authority. Mr. Liewen says this significant change, plus Latin America's determination — and right — to have an increasingly important voice in world affairs, makes it advisable to revise United States policy for the region.

The author thinks the time has come to begin de-emphasizing military assistance, to make a start on arms reduction in Latin America. At the same time, he agrees, the United States should remain militarily strong because, in reality, it is this country which must bear the real burden of hemispheric defense.

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Stronger Ties Needed

Mr. Liewen, who compiled his study for the Council on

Washington should strengthen its ties with Latin America by helping it attack serious economic problems. He contends hemispheric security can be built through a demonstrated understanding of our neighbors' needs and a willingness to lend a helping hand.

The basic aim for the future, he says, must be a sound, prosperous and stable Latin America, one that will strengthen and solidify the Western world. He is convinced Latin America's positive contribution to opposing the threat of Communist imperialism will be proportionate to the stake its people believe they have in the struggle.

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